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DEPUTY WHIP

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

December 9, 2011

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The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

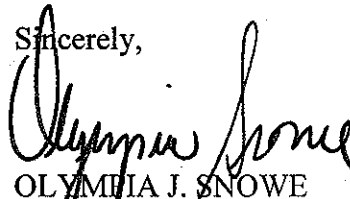
I am writing concerning an urgent issue regarding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to ask that you modify your Fiscal Year 2012 budget request for this program.

Recently, you indicated that you would be willing to "hold harmless" the amount of assistance provided for the program. The comments were encouraging and I would like to work with you to ensure that we accomplish this objective prior to the holiday season.

As you know, Congress is considering final appropriations bills this next week, and a clear commitment to this program from your administration would be critical to ensuring that assistance for our lowest income households is not cut. As a result, I would request that you consider formally amending your budget request to retain last year's LIHEAP funding and work with me to ensure that heating assistance is not cut during what is projected to be the least affordable winter heating season on record.

I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE  
United States Senator

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